

Message Text

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MASS JO US

SUBJECT: AIR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT FOR JORDAN

REF: STATE 172278

1. DELIVERED MESSAGE REFTEL TO PRIME MINISTER AT MIDNIGHT
LOCAL TIME JULY 22. HE HAS JUST CALLED ME TO HIS OFFICE
AND PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING HANDWRITTEN TEXT OF LETTER
FROM HIS MAJESTY TO YOU.

2. BEGIN TEXT: JULY 23,1975. MR SECRETARY

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CABLE REGARDING THE QUESTION OF
AIR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT FOR JODAN. FIRST OF ALL , I WISH
TO THANK YOU AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION FOR
ALL YOU HAVE DONE TO HELP JORDAN MEET ITS MINIMUM
REQUIREMENTS FOR OUR LEGITIMATE SELF DEFENSE.

I FULLY AGREE WITH YOU THAT OPTIONS ONE AND TWO ARE
TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE. AS FOR OPTION NUMBER THREE, I
WISH TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS:

ONE: AS YOU WELL KNOW, THE FOURTEEN BATTERIES OF HAWKS
AS WELL AS THE VULCANS AND THE REDEYES ARE THE MINIMUM
REQUIREMENTS FOR OUR AIR DEFENSE. THESE FIGURES WERE

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ARRIVED AT AFTER MONTHS OF STUDY AND SCRUTINY BY YOUR

AIR DEFENSE TEAMS AND MILITARY DELEGATIONS. AND AFTER CAREFUL REVIEW BY THE PRESIDENT AND YOUR GOODSELF, THE PACKAGE AS A WHOLE, WAS APPROVED AND A COMMITMENT WAS MADE TO ME BY YOU BOTH. THEREFORE IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT WE HAVE TO CONSIDER THE AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM AGREED UPON AS ONE ENTITY AND NOT DIVIDE IT UP INTO SMALL PARTS.

TWO: WHAT ASSURANCES WILL WE HAVE THAT AFTER THE SIXTH BATTERY, IS DELIVERED AND BEFORE THE SEVENTH IS DELIVERED, CONGRESS WILL NOT DECIDE TO STOP FURTHER DELIVERIES? I REALIZE THE ADMINISTRATION IS FULLY COMMITTED TO PROVIDING THESE SYSTEMS FOR US, AND I ACCEPT THIS COMMITMENT. BUT WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, WHAT GOOD ARE THOSE COMMITMENTS IF CONGRESS CAN VETO THEM AT ANY TIME WILLY-NILLY? AND WHAT POSITION WOULD JORDAN FIND ITSELF IN IF CONGRESS DECIDES AGAINST FURTHER DELIVERIES OF MORE THAN SIX BATTERIES? WOULD WE NOT FIND OURSELVES STUCK WITH ONLY A PART OF AN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM? AND WOULD WE NOT HAVE TO START LOOKING THEN FOR ALTERNATE SYSTEMS, AFTER HAVING WASTED SO MUCH MONEY AND TIME?

THREE: THE EVENTS OF THE LAST COUPLE WEEKS REGARDING THE HAWKS RAISE SOME VERY SERIOUS QUESTIONS REGARDING AMERICAN POLICY IN THE AREA, AND WHICH ARE FAR MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE SALE OF ARMS TO JORDAN. HOW CAN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CONDUCT ITS FOREIGN POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST IN A MANNER THAT WILL SERVE ITS OWN NATIONAL INTERESTS AND THE INTERESTS OF ITS ALLIES IN THE AREA, AND SERVE THE CAUSE OF PACE AND MODERATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST, IF THE DECISIONS IT MAKES IN THIS REGARD HAVE TO BE APPROVED BY A CONGRESS THAT APPARENTLY IS GREATLY INFLUENCED BY THE ZIONIST LOBBY? HOW CAN THE US GOVERNMENT MAINTAIN ITS CREDIBILITY AND CONTINUE TO BE ABLE TO PLAY AN EFFECTIVE ROLE IN THE ARAB WORLD IF ITS PLEDGES, PROMISES, AND COMMITMENTS, ALL MADE SERIOUSLY AND IN GOOD FAITH ARE NOT LIVED UP TO BECAUSE OF ISRAEL'S FRIENDS IN THE CONGRESS WHO SEEM TO RUN THE SHOW THERE?

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I HAVE GIVEN YOUR SUGGESTION VERY CAREFUL THOUGHT, AND I DO NOT MAKE MY DECISION HASTILY BUT I DO MAKE IT WITH A VERY HEAVY HEART. I FIND THAT ALL THE OPTIONS ARE UNACCEPTABLE. THE FOURTH OPTION WHICH IS A VARIATION OF THE THIRD AND WHICH WAS CONVEYED BY PHONE TO PRIME MINISTER RIFAI FROM AMBASSADOR PICKERING LATE LAST NIGHT, IS ALSO UNACCEPTABLE.

THEREFORE I EXPECT THE ADMINISTRATION TO INSIST ON THE WHOLE PACKAGE AS WAS AGREED UPON BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT, YOU AND I. IF CONGRESS DOES APPROVE THE PACKAGE, THEN NO ONE WILL BE MORE PLEASED THAN I. IF, ON THE OTHER HAND THE WHOLE PACKAGE FALLS THROUGH THEN I HOPE THAT THE CONGRESS WILL FEEL THAT THEY HAVE DONE THE RIGHT THING TO JORDAN, AND I SINCERELY HOPE THAT THEY AND OTHERS WILL NOT BLAME JORDAN FOR OBTAINING AN ADEQUATE AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM FROM ANY SOURCE AVAILABLE TO US.

FINALLY I WISH YOU TO KNOW THAT IRRESPECTIVE OF THE OUTCOME OF THIS WHOLE UNPLEASANT AFFAIR, I HOPE THAT AMERICAN JORDANIAN RELATIONS MAY CONTINUE TO FLOURISH, PROSPER AND GROW STRONGER. AS FOR ME PERSONALLY, I SHALL ALWAYS CHERISH YOUR FRIENDSHIP. SINCERELY
HUSSEIN I. END TEXT

3. HIS MAJESTY AND PRIME MINISTER ARE DEPARTING FOR TEHRAN WITHIN THE HOUR AND TENTATIVE PLANS ARE TO RETURN TO AMMAN ON FRIDAY, JULY 25, ANY COMMUNICATIONS FOR THEM DURING THIS PERIOD SHOULD BE TRANSMITTED THROUGH EMBASSY TEHRAN.
LINDER

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